



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 6, 1999

S. 579

Silk Road Strategy Act of 1999

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
on March 23, 1999*

S. 579 would state U.S. policy on various economic and political matters related to countries of the South Caucasus and Central Asia. Although the bill would authorize several broad categories of assistance to the region, it would not authorize specific amounts, and the authorizations would overlap with more general authorizations in current law.

Because the bill would not substantially expand the Administration's authority to provide assistance, either geographically or programmatically, CBO estimates that spending targeted at the region would continue at the current rate--approximately \$460 million in economic assistance, security assistance, food aid, and export financing. That spending would be subject to appropriation. S. 579 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The estimate was prepared by Joseph C. Whitehill. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.